

Egypt E-Alert

BALLANTYNE

magazine

Ambassador Shoukry Feels at Home In the South June 18, 2010

The American South, Sameh Shoukry says, has a lot in common with Egypt. He knows comparing the Bible Belt to Muslim country in North Africa probably sounds odd. But Shoukry, Egypt's ambassador to the U.S., has built a career on finding common ground.

"The South is associated with hospitality and warmth, which is a shared value structure in much of the Middle East," he says in an interview. "They're societies that put great value in terms of family and extended family. There's a natural demeanor of receptiveness, of people being welcoming, being open. This is a common issue between Southerners and Middle Easterners."

Shoukry, a career diplomat who was named Egypt's ambassador in 2008, came to The Ballantyne Hotel & Lodge in April for a reception and dinner with the Middle East Council of the Carolinas. It was part of a two-day trip to Charlotte that took him to UNC Charlotte for a lively question-and-answer session with students and to a lunch hosted by the World Affairs Council of Charlotte.

To read the original article, please click [here](#).

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2010 JUN 21 PM 1:37

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